

I've Got a Crush on You

Reading recommendations for young love.

Fiction



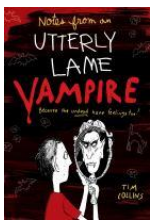
Rules for Secret Keeping, Lauren Barnholdt, J F BAR Humor

Thirteen-year-old Samantha faces some stiff competition when a new friend is interested in the same boy Samantha has a crush on, and another girl starts an internet version of her business of passing secrets, unread, from one classmate to another.



The Summer Before Boys, Nora Raleigh Baskin, J F BAS

Twelve-year-old best friends and relatives, Julia and Eliza, are happy to spend the summer together. But when they meet a neighborhood boy, their close relationship begins to change.



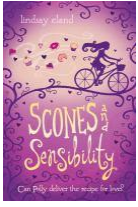
Notes From a Totally Lame Vampire, Tim Collins, J F COL Humor

In many ways, Nigel is your average teenage boy next door. He spends most of his time worrying about getting a girlfriend, fitting in, and dealing with acne. But things are even more complicated for him since he is also a vampire. Then Nigel falls head over heels for the new girl in school...



Flirt Club, Cathleen Daly, J F DAL

Through notes and journal entries, best friends and self-proclaimed "drama geeks" Cisco (Izzy) and the Bean (Annie) write of the trials of middle school, as well as their efforts to attract boys by forming a Flirt Club.



Scones and Sensibility, Lindsay Eland, J F ELA

Seek tirelessly and you shall not find a contemporary heroine of middle-grade literature as refined and romantic as Miss Polly Madassa. Still swooning over the romantic conclusions of *Pride & Prejudice* and *Anne of Green Gables*, twelve-year-old Polly decides her purpose in life: helping along lonely hearts in search of love.



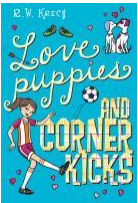
Sweet Treats & Secret Crushes, Lisa Greenwald, J F GRE

When a blizzard threatens to ruin Valentine's Day, three seventh-grade friends make and distribute fortune cookies to their lonely neighbors—and confront the secrets they've been keeping from one another.



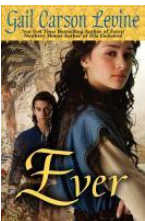
Shug, Jenny Han, J F HAN

Annemarie Wilcox, or Shug as her family calls her, is beginning to think there's nothing worse than being twelve. She's too tall, too freckled, and way too flat-chested. Shug is sure that there's not one good or amazing thing about her. And now she has to start junior high, where the friends she counts most dear aren't acting so dear anymore -- especially Mark...



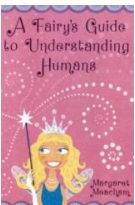
Love Puppies and Corner Kicks, Bob Krech, J F KRE

Thirteen-year-old Andrea is devastated when her parents announce that the family is moving to Scotland for a year-long teacher exchange program, but as she makes new friends, joins a soccer team, and her stutter improves, life does not seem so bad.



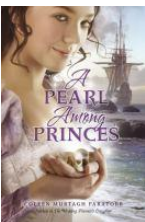
Ever, Gail Carson Levine, J F LEV SciFi/Fantasy

Fourteen-year-old Kezi and Olus, Akkan god of the winds, fall in love and together try to change her fate—to be sacrificed to a Hyte god because of a rash promise her father made--through a series of quests that might make her immortal.



A Fairy's Guide to Understanding Humans, Margaret Meacham, J F MEA SciFi/Fantasy

Gretta, who is making strides in her fairy godmother training, tries to help Morgan fit in at her new school as research for a book about her interactions with humans, but her own boyfriend problems get in the way.



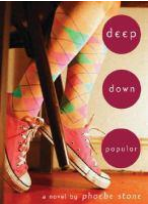
A Pearl Among Princes, Coleen Murtagh Paratore, J F PAR SciFi/Fantasy

As her sixteenth birthday approaches, Gracepearl feels her deceased mother guiding her toward a decision between life on a remote, agrarian island with her childhood love, or somewhere far away with a young man in training to be a prince.



The Boy Who Owned the School, Gary Paulsen, J F PAU

Jacob Freisten, often in a fog, tries to ease through high school unnoticed; but a beautiful classmate takes notice of him and his life begins to change.



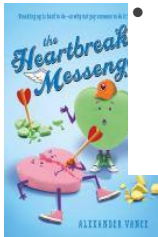
Deep Down Popular, Pheobe Stone, J F STO

In a small Virginia town, sixth-grader Jessie Lou Ferguson has a crush on the hugely popular Conrad Parker Smith, and when he suddenly develops a medical problem and the teacher asks Jessie Lou to help him, they become friends, to her surprise.



Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love, Lauren Tarchis, J F TAR

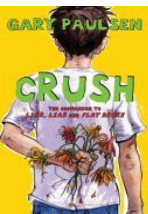
Seventh-grader Emma-Jean Lazarus uses her logical, scientific mind to navigate the mysteries of the upcoming Spring Fling, her friend Colleen's secret admirer, and other love-related dilemmas.



The Heartbreak Messenger, Alexander P. Vance, J F VAN

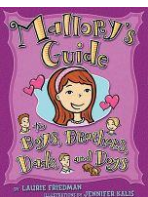
Quentin is the Heartbreak Messenger--someone who, for a fee, will deliver a breakup message to the soon-to-be ex. His business is surprisingly successful, but as he interacts with his clients, message recipients, and his best friend Abigail, he wonders if his own heart can remain intact.

Books from a Series



Crush: The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Love, Gary Paulsen, J SER LIA

Afraid to actually ask Tina Zabinski for a date, eighth-grader Kevin spends most of his time theorizing about love and romance and observing and analyzing male/female interaction.



Mallory's Guide to Boys, Brothers, Dads, and Dogs, Laurie Friedman, J SER MAL

Ten-year-old Mallory's crush on J.T., a boy in her older brother's class, gets her in trouble with her teacher, her family, and her friends but no matter what she does, J.T. does not seem interested in her.



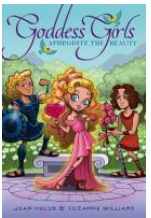
Mackenzie Blue: Mixed Messages, Tina Wells, J SER MAC

Mackenzie and her friends create a new online social networking site which creates some unforeseen problems, as she is also trying to figure out if she has a crush on one of her best friends, how to deal with the jealousy of one of her bandmates and her fears over her mother's pregnancy.



Mackenzie Blue: The Secret Crush, Tina Wells, J SER MAC

The continuing adventures of seventh-grader Mackenzie Blue as she tries to juggle her time and attention between a developing crush, the school musical, her family, and her friends.



Goddess Girls: Aphrodite the Beauty, Joan Holub & Suzanne Williams, J SER GOD

After giving Athena a makeover Aphrodite becomes jealous of her friend, but she focuses on figuring out how to help a mortal win a race against Atalanta, which will result in either their marriage or his death.



Goddess Girls: Persephone the Daring, Joan Holub, J SER GOD

Orpheus is a mortal rock god, and the girls at Mount Olympus Academy are wild about him! But Hades and the other MOA boys aren't charmed. Orpheus was devastated when he lost Eurydice to the Underworld, so he asks Persephone to help get her back. Persephone pushes Hades to return Eurydice to the living world. But restoring Orpheus's one true love might jeopardize Persephone's own chances with her biggest crush...



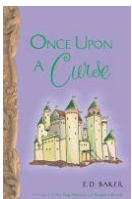
From Willa, With Love: From the Life of Willa Havisham, Coleen Murtagh Paratore, J SER WED

When her best friend Mariel and boyfriend JFK spend the summer away from Cape Cod, sophomore-to-be Willa, who works part-time in her family's inn, is unprepared for new romance and other surprises.



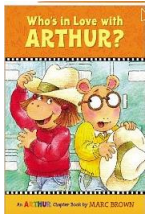
Thirteen, Lauren Myracle, J SER ELE

Winnie's thirteenth year brings many joys and challenges as she negotiates her relationship with her first boyfriend and realizes that change is inevitable in her friends, family, and even herself.



Once Upon a Curse, E.D. Baker, J SER TAL

Esmeralda, who is both a princess and a powerful witch, must travel back in time to end a family curse or risk losing her true love, Prince Eadric, forever.



Who's In Love With Arthur?, Marc Brown, J SER ART

Arthur and Francine are a square-dancing duo in gym class. When Muffy tries to switch partners (she's saddled with Binky Barnes!), Francine refuses to trade. Francine complains that Francine doesn't want to share Arthur. Binky puts two and two together and spreads the word-Arthur and Francine are in love! Is it true?!



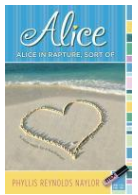
Cloudy with a Chance of Boys, Megan McDonald, J SER SIS

While older sister Alex is trying to orchestrate a perfect first kiss with her heartthrob and younger sister Joey prefers frogs to boys, Stevie Reel wonders if she is ready for a boyfriend while being pursued by a new boy in her class.



Sleeping Beauty: The One Who Took a Really Long Nap, Wendy Mass, J SER TWI

The girl's been sleeping for a hundred years. The boy's got issues of his own. There are two sides to every story...



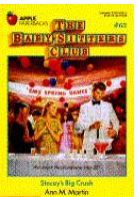
Alice in Rapture, Sort Of. Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, J SER ALI

The summer before she enters the seventh grade becomes the summer of Alice's first boyfriend, and she discovers that love is about the most mixed-up thing that can possibly happen to you, especially since she has no mother to go to for advice.



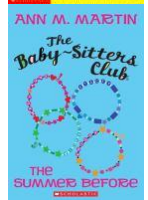
Annabelle Unleashed: Everybody Bugs Out, Leslie Margolis, J SER ANN

Sixth-grader Annabelle realizes that she has a crush on Oliver, with whom she is doing a science fair project, just before the Valentine's Day dance--and just before her friend Claire announces her crush on him.



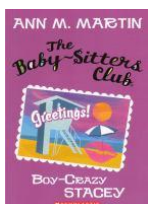
The Baby-Sitters Club: Stacy's Big Crush, Ann Martin, J SER BAB

The season is spring, and wedding bells ring! At least, that's the thing that's on Stacey's mind. When a student teacher arrives at Stoneybrook Middle School and is going to be Stacey's substitute math teacher, Stacey can't pay attention in class! Wes is cute, but he's 22! But then Stacey realizes that not every romance will work.



The Baby-Sitter's Club: The Summer Before, Ann Martin, J SER BAB

During the summer before their seventh-grade year, Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, and Stacey tackle difficulties, including family problems, crushes, moving, and making new friends



The Baby-Sitter's Club: Boy Crazy Stacey, Ann Martin, J SER BAB

The Pike family is taking a two-week vacation at the Jersey Shore, and Stacey and Mary Anne get to go along to help out! Two weeks of sun, sand ... and the cutest lifeguard Stacey has ever seen! Mary Anne knows that Scott the lifeguard is way too old for up with a broken heart?



Totally Crushed, Eliza Willard, J SER CAN

Annabel is thrilled to find a red carnation at her locker on Valentine's Day. But when it turns out to be from her best guy friend Sam, things get messy - fast! Annabel could never like Sam THAT way. But her best friend Phoebe does! Annabel's perfect Valentine's Day is turning into a perfect disaster. Who knew a little red carnation could make life so complicated?



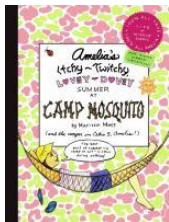
The Boy Next Door, Eliza Willard, J SER CAN

Taryn and Jeff have lived next door to each other their whole lives. It never really seemed to matter that they were a girl and a boy -- they were just friends. But when they hit sixth grade, everything changes . . . whether they want it to or not.



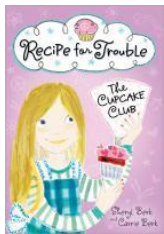
Captain Awesome Get's Crushed, Stan Kirby, J SER CAP

It's February in Sunnyview, and Valentine's Day is fast approaching. When Captain Awesome and Nacho Cheese Man start to receive valentines in their cubbies, they know they must step up the watch for all things evil. But Captain Awesome gets distracted when Sally (aka Supersonic Sal) starts to receive valentines of her very own.



Amelia's Itchy-Twitchy, Lovey-Dovey, Summer at Camp Mosquito, Marissa Moss, J SER AME

Despite the hard mattresses, biting bugs, and exhausting hikes, Amelia finally begins to enjoy her time at sleepaway camp with the help of her new friends, but when she gets her first serious crush on a boy named Luke, Amelia is stunned to find out that Carly likes him too and so must find a way to win his heart without losing her newest best friend.



Recipe for Trouble, Sheryl Berk, J SER CUP

To Lexi, a new school year means back to baking with her BFFs in the cupcake club. But the club president, Kylie, is mixing things up by inviting new members. And Lexi is in for a no-so-sweet surprise when she is cast in the school's production of Romeo and Juliet. If only she could be as confident onstage as she is in the kitchen. The icing on the cake: her secret crush is playing Romeo.



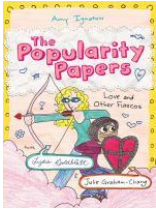
Taking the Cake, Lisa Papademetriou, J SER CON

Hayley and her little sister, Chloe, have just moved into their grandmother's house with their mom, who recently divorced their dad and has just been laid off from her job. Helping out at her grandmother's tea shop, Hayley discovers she has a knack for baking, but her newfound talent seems to have cost her her best friend, Artie. Now Hayley's crushing on someone who might just be Artie's new boyfriend.



Love Bites, Sienna Mercer, J SER MYS

Olivia and Ivy go to Transylvania to meet their Dad's side of the family. The crown prince of Transylvania seems interested in Olivia and Ivy wonders if he is just being friendly or is up to something.



Love & Other Fiascos with Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham Chang, Amy Ignatow, J SER POP

Love is in the air Julie and Roland are an official "couple," which means . . . well, they're not exactly sure what, except that it makes Papa Dad extremely anxious. Meanwhile, Lydia's mom announces that she's marrying Coach Eric (the soccer coach from England), and Lydia and her sister, Melody, are not happy about it.



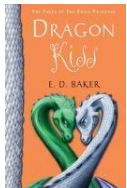
Juliet Dove Queen of Love, Bruce Coville, J SER MAG

Shy Juliet Dove leaves Mr. Elives' magic shop with Helen of Troy's amulet--a virtual man magnet. Juliet doesn't know what she's got, but soon every boy in town is swoony for her. Yet, much as she'd like to lose all the unwanted attention, she can't: The amulet won't come off!



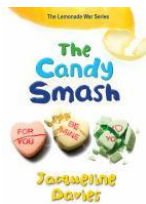
Junie B. Jones Love Handsome Warren, Barbara Park, J SER JUN

Unable to compete with her friends' fancy clothes and running ability, irrepressible six-year-old Junie B. finds her own way to make the new boy at school like her.



Dragon Kiss, E.D. Baker, J SER TAL

Audun is on a quest to find Princess Millie, and to become human in order to win her heart. But The Dragon King has set out a number of tasks Audun must perform before he is permitted try even try to woo Millie.



The Candy Smash, Jacqueline Davies, J SER LEM

Jessie and Evan Treski have waged a lemonade war, sought justice in a class trial, and even unmasked a bell thief. Now they are at opposite ends over the right to keep secrets. Evan believes some things (such as his poetry) are private. Jessie believes scandal makes good news. When anonymously sent candy hearts appear in Class 4-0, self-appointed ace reporter Jessie determines to get the scoop on class crushes.



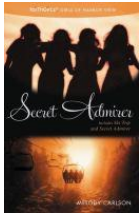
Nice Shot, Cupid!, Kate McMullan, J SER MYT

The story about the handsome Greek god Cupid and how he met Psyche? Just another lie from that myth-o-maniac Zeus! The truth is, when Cupid met Psyche he was a gawky teen god with bad skin and braces. Psyche was so beautiful, Cupid was scared to even approach her. Instead, he and Zeus cooked up a plan to kidnap Psyche. Hades, King of the Underworld, is here to shine some light on what really happened.



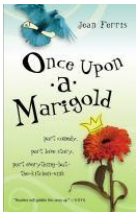
Durinda's Dangers, Lauren Baratz-Logsted, J SER SIS

One month after their parents' disappearance, the third-grade Huit octuplets deal with a malfunctioning refrigerator and try to win the love of the only boy in their class at Valentine's Day, while Dorinda discovers her special power and gift.



Secret Admirer, Melody Carlson, J SER FAI

Hoping to attract the attention of a special boy before the Valentine's Day dance, Amy instead suffers public humiliation then, with the help of club members Morgan, Carlie, Emily, and Chelsea, she finds a way to show God's love to other lonely people.



Once Upon a Marigold, Jean Farris, J SER ONC

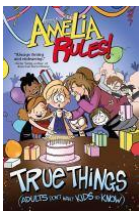
Christian is gaga for Princess Marigold. But he's just a commoner, and no match for royalty. Heck, he lives in a cave with a troll! And now he's discovered another reason to put his love-soggy heart on ice: Queen Olympia is scheming to take over the kingdom--and she'll bump off her own daughter to do it. Can Christian foil her diabolical plans?

Graphic Novels



The Phantom of the Opera, adapted by Joeming Dunn, G GN GRA

A graphic novel based on the Gaston Leroux classic, in which a disfigured musical genius, living under the Paris Opera House, uses music to win the love of a beautiful opera singer.



Amelia Rules: True Things (Adults Don't Want Kids to Know), Jimmy Gownley, J GN AME

Amelia Louise McBride's eleventh birthday party is fabulous, but soon her friends are fighting all the time, she gets a terrible report card, and when she summons the courage to tell a boy how she feels about him, she learns why it is called a "crush."



Chocomimi 4: Sweet & Stylish, Konami Sonoda, J GN CHO

Meet Choco and Mimi, best friends in eighth grade. Choco is serious and reliable while Mimi is silly and spoiled rotten, but they *both* have a flair for fashion! Cute outfits aren't the only thing on Choco's and Mimi's minds. Choco's heart still beats strong for Ando, while Mimi is having trouble deciding which guy she likes best...



Belly Flop!, Stephen McCranie, J GN MAL

A time machine? Mal can build one with his eyes closed and one arm tied behind his back. His secret crush's birthday party? Gulp. A shrinking machine. Invisibility spray. If Mal can think it, he can build it. But there's one thing he can't seem to do: Get Megan to notice him. He gets his chance when he's invited to her birthday party. But destroying her cake and presents wasn't quite what Mal had in mind. Good thing the school's talent show is coming up!

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